



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Disaster Loan Workshops Open ***Red Tide victims get assistance with loan applications***

Portland, ME - The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that disaster employees will be available to provide assistance to small businesses impacted by the recent outbreak of Red Tide along the coast of Maine. The SBA will open disaster loan workshops beginning June 29, 2005 at the following locations:

Knox County

Rockland Fire Department

118 Park Street, Rockland, ME

Hours: Wednesday, June 29th and Thursday, June 30th, 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 1st, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Washington County

Federal Building

51 Court Street, Room 109, Machias, ME

Hours: Wednesday, June 29th and Thursday, June 30th, 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 1st, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

“In response to Governor Baldacci’s certification of the economic impact resulting from the Red Tide, the SBA recently issued a federal disaster declaration for parts of Maine and New Hampshire making low-interest working capital loans available to small businesses impacted by the event. SBA representatives will be on hand at the workshops to issue loan applications and provide information about SBA’s disaster loan program,” said SBA’s Disaster Area Director William E. Leggiero, Jr.

“SBA economic injury disaster loans (EIDLs) provide affected businesses with needed working capital until normal operations resume after a disaster. These loans provide resources to cover normal operating expenses and debt service requirements which the business could have paid had this disaster not occurred. Interest rates for these loans are fixed at 4 percent with terms extending up to 30 years,” added Leggiero.

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SBA disaster loans are available to eligible small businesses in the primary counties of Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Washington and York, as well as the contiguous counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot and Somerset in the State of Maine; and Carroll, Rockingham and Strafford in the State of New Hampshire.

Loan applications may be requested at a local SBA outreach center or by calling 1-800-659-2955. Applications are also available at SBA's website, sba.gov/disaster. The deadline for submitting applications for is March 23, 2006.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office/Area 1 - 130 South Elmwood Avenue - Buffalo, NY 14202